

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An occupant protection device comprising:

an airbag that is inflated with gas from an inflator at a side of an occupant to protect the body of the occupant from the shoulder to the lumbar, the airbag having substantially the same vertical dimension as that of a seat back, wherein:

the airbag has a first region that is thinner than other regions in a vehicle width direction in the inflated state, the first region being disposed substantially at the center of the airbag in the vertical direction and extending substantially parallel to the seat back,

the first region that is thin in the vehicle width direction in the inflated state is divided into sections in the vertical direction, and

a gas passage is provided between the sections.

2. (Original) The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the airbag also has a second region that is thin in the vehicle width direction in the inflated state, the second region being disposed in front of and above the first region at a position corresponding to the upper arm of the occupant.

3. (Original) The occupant protection device according to Claim 1, wherein the first region that is thin in the vehicle width direction in the inflated state is substantially oval in side view.

4-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The occupant protection device according to claim 1, wherein the airbag includes an inflatable body at the bottom of the airbag, the inflatable body being inflated at the side of the thigh of the occupant.

13. (Previously Presented) The occupant protection device according to claim 1,

wherein the airbag is folded such that an upper portion and a lower portion are placed on a center portion and is then rolled or accordion-folded in a front-to-rear direction of the vehicle.

14-25. (Canceled)